



NCTA

NATIONAL CABLE & TELECOMMUNICATIONS ASSOCIATION

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April 13, 2004

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Re: CS Docket No. 98-120

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On April 9, 2004, Dan Brenner (Senior Vice President, Law and Regulatory Policy), Greg Klein (Senior Director, Research) and Diane Burstein (Deputy General Counsel) of the National Cable & Telecommunications Association met with the Jonathan Cody, Legal Advisor to FCC Chairman Powell and William Johnson, Rick Chessen, Deborah Klein, Ben Bartolome, Tom Horan, and Eloise Gore of the FCC's Media Bureau. During our meeting, we reported on the cable industry's roll-out of high definition programming.

We provided the FCC copies of the attached NCTA press release, which describes the results of NCTA's survey of cable operator HD carriage at the end of the first quarter of 2004. Cable operators now offer HD programming in 99 of the top 100 DMAs, and 155 of the 210 DMAs nationwide.

NCTA also discussed cable's voluntary carriage of digital broadcast stations. Cable operators carry a significant number of HD and digital broadcast stations: a total of 382 different local digital broadcast stations are being carried on cable systems offering HD. The 382 local digital broadcast stations carried include both commercial and non-commercial stations; according to NCTA research, 239 local commercial digital broadcast stations carried at the end of the first quarter of 2004 are owned by entities other than one of the top four broadcast networks.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ **Diane B. Burstein**
Diane B. Burstein

Attachment

cc: Jonathan Cody
William Johnson
Rick Chessen
Deborah Klein
Ben Bartolome
Tom Horan
Eloise Gore